

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 112991

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TO USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

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S E C R E T STATE 112991

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, MNUC, NPG

SUBJECT: NPG - DRAFT PERM REP REPORT ON PHASE II

DATED 9 MAY

REF: A) USNATO 2665; B) USNATO 2586

HOLD FOR OPENING OF BUSINESS

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SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 112991

1. WE APPRECIATE MISSION'S VIEWS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

CONTAINED REF A. WE AGREE THAT THE BROAD APPROACH TO PHASE III, AS SUGGESTED IN SECTION IV OF REFTEL A, WILL BE USEFUL IN ACHIEVING US OBJECTIVES IN THIS AREA. MOREOVER, IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT THE MINISTERS COULD DISCUSS PHASE III AT THE NPG MEETING IN JUNE WITHOUT GETTING INTO A DISCUSSION OF THE NEED FOR A "CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF NATO'S CONCEPT..." PARTICULARLY SINCE SECDEF HIGHLIGHTED THIS NEED IN HIS REMARKS AT THE BERGEN NPG MEETING. ADDITIONALLY, IT APPEARS THE BRITISH ARE DEVELOPING PRESSURE FOR THEIR OWN VERSION OF AN "OVERALL CONCEPT" AND WE CERTAINLY SHOULD NOT LET THEM TAKE THE LEADERSHIP FROM US IN GUIDING THIS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT AND SENSITIVE ISSUE THROUGH THE NPG.

2. ACCORDINGLY, YOU SHOULD CONVEY USG CONCURRENCE WITH

THE CONCEPT AND RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN PARAS 26-28, REF B. YOU SHOULD EMPHASIZE, HOWEVER, THAT WE ARE JOINING ALLIED CONSENSUS TO LAUNCH BROAD PHASE III STUDY. WE WISH TO UNDERLINE THAT DESPITE NEED FOR U.S. TO PLAY LEADING ROLE, AS SECDEF REMARKED IN BERGEN, IMPETUS BEHIND PROPOSAL TO TAKE BROAD APPROACH TO PHASE III IS AN ALLIANCE ONE. THIS WILL BE USEFUL TACTICALLY WHEN DIFFICULT ISSUES ARISE. WHILE WE DO NOT UNDERESTIMATE THE DIFFICULTIES AND SENSITIVITIES INVOLVED, WE BELIEVE THAT ONCE STUDY BEGINS ACTIVE U.S. LEADERSHIP WILL HELP ASSURE A PHASE III PRODUCT THAT WILL SERVE OUR INTERESTS. IN THIS CONNECTION, WORK WILL BEGIN SOON IN WASHINGTON WITH VIEW TOWARD REFINING THE SCOPE AND DIRECTION OF THE STUDY AS WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THEM. FYI: IN THE MEANTIME, YOU SHOULD CAREFULLY MONITOR ALLIED VIEWS (PARTICULARLY FRG, ITALY, AND UK) ON CONTENT OF PHASE III. END FYI.

3. IN NOTING POSITION MISSION SHOULD ENSURE THAT NPG MEMBERS RECOGNIZE THAT A RECOMMENDATION OF A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY AND THE EFFORT TO CREATE A "CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT" WILL BECOME DIFFICULT AND TIME-CONSUMING AND WILL TOUCH ON SENSITIVE AREAS. WE SUGGEST THIS POINT BE DELIVERED BY A RANKING MEMBER OF THE U.S.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 112991

DELEGATION TO EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE WE ASCRIBE TO PROPER DEFINITION OF THE STUDY. KISSINGER

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